

Nonproliferation Nuclear Pact

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From News Dispatches

PARIS, Nov. 26 — U.S. Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and Under Secretary of State George Ball arrived tonight for a NATO nuclear policy meeting Saturday.

Most NATO governments are clearly putting a non proliferation agreement with Russia ahead of any new ideas about nuclear sharing, Don Cook of the Los Angeles Times reported.

The one-day meeting of defense ministers, at which only 10 of the 15 NATO countries will be represented, is therefore likely to be disappointing for West Germany, which is seeking a greater voice in nuclear matters, and for U.S. ad-

vocates of nuclear sharing in NATO.

The NATO consensus seems to favor "any amount of increased consultation and coordination of nuclear planning and strategy within the alliance, but no change in the control or ownership of nuclear weapons which would impede the Geneva negotiations for a nuclear nonproliferation treaty."

Pressed by British

This view was pressed on McNamara and Ball by the British at a round of meetings in London today. They had a long conference with Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart and Defense Minister Denis

Healey. They then lunched with Prime Minister Wilson.

British sources reported that the two nations' officials agreed to try to learn Russia's price for a nonproliferation treaty. Stewart is going to Moscow on Monday to discuss this and the Vietnam war.

(The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia warned Britain against letting West Germany share in control of nuclear weapons. It said "almost no time remains for the solution of the problem of nonproliferation" and told Britain, "whether Europe will live in peace depends to a great extent on our two governments.")

The British and U.S. of-

ficials also discussed ways of checking Communist Chinese expansion.

Going to Vietnam

On arriving in Paris, McNamara announced he would travel to Saigon Saturday night. He linked his trip to the increase in U.S. combat strength in Vietnam, saying:

"This past summer has shown the wisdom of this. The Vietcong monsoon offensive has been blunted and defeated. I think their fatalities have been very high."

McNamara and Ball went from the airport to a dinner meeting at the residence of Harland Cleveland, U.S. Ambassador to NATO. Healey

Tops NATO Agenda

and West German Defense Minister Kai-Uwe von Hassel also were at the dinner.

France has boycotted the whole idea of nuclear sharing and closer policy coordination from the first, and will not be represented at the Saturday meeting.

Claim Veto Right

French officials now are saying that any proposals to establish a permanent "NATO nuclear committee" will have to be approved by all the members of the Alliance, with France having the right to exercise a veto.

The French are understood to have made it clear that if the Saturday meeting goes

too far in the direction of "nuclear integration," they may veto the whole operation.

Last May, McNamara suggested a committee of "four or five" ministers to discuss ways of improving allied planning in the nuclear field and also a system of communications for fast consultation in a crisis involving nuclear weapons.

The committee meeting Saturday is now composed of 10 ministers. France, Portugal, Luxembourg, Norway and Iceland will be absent. For the rest of the NATO governments the meeting has become as much a demonstration of solidarity against the French

as an active search for a new nuclear policy.

Accordingly, the meeting is expected to fall back on the old formula of setting up study committees. One committee will study the problems of nuclear sharing—the old multilateral Nuclear Force plan (MLF), the British allied nuclear force proposal and any other ideas that may be put forward. A second committee will go to work on the problem of communications and a third will try to sort out what in the Pentagon is called "data input." The latter involves questions which might arise in a nuclear crisis. All of this is called "crisis management."